## <u>CLAIMS</u>

- 1. A service point management system comprising a customer display device linked to a control device and at least one assistant operable control, said assistant operable control being operable to provide, upon actuation thereof, an indication on said display device of the next customer to be served, said system further including weighing apparatus which is linked to said assistant operable control.
- 2. A system according to claim 1 wherein the operable control is incorporated within said weighing apparatus.
- 3. A system according to claim 2 wherein a further data storage and processing device is provided adjacent to said control.
- 4 A system according to claim 2 wherein a further data storage processing device is provided remote from the control.
- 5. A system according to claim 1 wherein the control is provided separately from the weighing apparatus.
- 6. A system according to anyone of claims 1 to 5 wherein two display devices are provided, one for displaying information as to the next customer to be served, and another display providing information relating to promotional goods or other material.
- 7. A system according to anyone of claims 1 to 5 wherein more than two display devices are provided.

WO 2004/061783 PCT/GB2003/000010

-10-

- 8. A system according to anyone of claims 1 to 7 further including a device which provides each customer with a queue number, said device being linked to the management system.
- 9. A system according to claim 8 wherein the device comprises sequentially numbered tickets.
- 10. A system according to claim 7 wherein the device allocates a sequential queue number to successive customers and prints out the details onto a ticket which the customer retains.
- 11. A system according to anyone of claim 1 to 10 further comprising an alert system which provides an indication of a variation between ideal waiting time and queue length relative to the actual waiting time of customers.